Air service from important cities in M.P.

1715. SHRIMATI VENNA VERMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Raipur in Madhya Pradesh has been linked by air with Indore and Bhopal in M.P. and Nagpur and Mumbai in Maharashtra; if so, the details of the air services introduced; and

(b) whether Jabalpur and other places in Madhya Pradesh, where strip already exists, which had earlier been operative, has also been or is proposed to be linked with Mumbai, Nagpur and other stations, if so, since when; and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) No scheduled airline is operating any flight to/from Raipur to Indore and Bhopal. However, Alliance Air, a wholly owned subsidiary of Indian Airlines operates the following services connecting Raipur to Nagpur and Mumbai:—

(i) Dclhi/Nagpur/Raipur/Delhi — Daily

(ii) Mumbai/Raipur/Bhubaneswar/ Mumbai — thrice a week

(b) No scheduled airlines are operating any flight to/from Jabalpur. The details of other places airlinkcd in Madhya Pradesh arc given in the statement. *(See* below) The Government has laid down route dispersal guidelines with a view to achieve better regulation of air transport services taking into account the need for air transport services of different regions of the country. It is however up to the airlines to provide air services to specific places depending upon the traffic demand and commercial viability subject to compliance of route dispersal guidelines.

Statement

Operator	Route	Frequency
Alliance Air	Bhopal-Indorc	Daily
Alliance Air	Bhopal-Gwalior	4 days/week
Alliiincc Air	Gwalior-Bhopal	3 days/week
Alliance Air	Bhopal-Dclhi	Daily
Alliiincc Air	Delhi-Agra-Khajuraho-Varanasi	Daily
Indian Airlines	Khajuraho-Mumbai	2 davs/weck
Jci Air	Indore-Mumbai	Daily

Revision of demurrage charges for cargo

1716. DR. MOHAN BABU: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently raised the demurrage charges for cargo;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount likely to be earned annually by Government as a result of the revision;

(c) whether it is a fact that identification of cargo takes unusually long hours thereby causing a lot of inconvenience to the people; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and what steps arc proposed to be taken to reduce delays in identification of cargo?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) and (b) The rates of demurrage charges were revised and notified by the Airports Authority of India (AAI) with effect from 1.6.98. The details in this regard are given in the statement (See below) Subsequently keeping in view the representations received from the Export-Import Trade, the free time for clearance of import cargo has, from 1.11.1998, been increased to 5 working days, including